NATIONAL ALLOTMENTS JOURNAL.

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the well-known "Curl or Leaf Roll" disease of potatoes is carried from plant to plant by the potato aphis, myzus persicae.

Fortunately aphides have a large number of enemies: the familiar lady bird is probably the most common. Lady bird larvae, hover fly larvae and others feed upon aphides, and are responsible for the destruction of considerable numbers of greenflies throughout the breeding season.

METHODS OF CONTROL

For all insects of the aphis type (having sucking mouth parts) the use of "Contact Washes" are the best methods of control. It is, however, important that the insects themselves should be sprayed, as no control is obtained unless the insect is hit or covered by the spray solution. Whatever solution is used it should be well sprayed into the plant by means of any type of forceable syringe. PARAFFIN EMULSION

This provides a very cheap and effective spray, but correct mixing is necessary, or scorching of tender foliage may result. Dissolve 3 lb. soft soap in 2 quarts of boiling water; while still boiling add 1 pint of paraffin and immediately churn the mixture thoroughly. Allow to cool, then dilute down by the addition of 5 gallons of soft water, mixing vigorously prior to using. Total cost, 6d. NICOTINE SOLUTION

This is a very effective spray solution, though somewhat expensive, and is made up by dissolving ½ lb. soft soap in 5 gallons of water, then add ½ oz. fluid nicotine. Total cost, ls. 4½d.

DERRIS POWDER

This has the advantage of being non-poisonous to human beings, and can be safely used on all growing plants. Dissolve b. derris powder in 5 gallons of water, then add a little soft soap or prepared "wetter." Total cost, Is. 8d.

Most aphides pass the winter in the egg stage, and at this period an excellent control can be obtained by spraying all fruit trees and bushes with a 6 per cent. tar distillate solution or wash. It is most important, however, that the tar distillate wash should be used only while the trees and bushes are dormant.

IN THE COMMONS

In reply to a question put to him by Mr. Ellis Smith, M.P. for Stoke-on-Trent, the Minister of Agriculture said that he had given careful consideration to the resolutions of the National Allotments Society, and while he had no authority to make regulations giving security of tenure to allotment holders he was prepared to consider any action within existing powers in regard to the maintenance and extension of the allotment movement. He feared there might be no possibility of introducing legislation dealing with allotments this session.